



From the Board Room

ACTIVITIES OF THE NC BOARD OF EDUCATION

JUNE 2014

The State Board of Education is comprised of the State Treasurer, the Lieutenant Governor and 11 citizens appointed by the Governor. This newsletter highlights the Board's activities on behalf of the 1.5 million public school children in our state and the more than 100,000 educators who provide services to children. View all State Board of Education member and advisor information online at <https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/AboutUs/AboutUs.aspx?S=10399&TID=1>. To access current and archived versions of From the Boardroom, visit <http://stateboard.ncpublicschools.gov/> and select the "SBE Newsletter" tab.

TEACHER WORKING CONDITIONS SURVEY PRELIMINARY REPORT PRESENTED

Eighty-nine percent of North Carolina teachers participated in the 2014 North Carolina Teacher Working Conditions Survey, providing important feedback to their local school district leaders and to state education leaders about what it is like to teach in North Carolina. This is the seventh time that North Carolina has done the biennial survey. Ninety-seven percent of all schools met or exceeded the 40 percent participation target considered to provide statistically reliable information. While a more detailed report based on the 2014 survey results will be presented at a future date, the State Board of Education members learned some overall findings in June:

- Public schools appear to be maintaining overall stability for safety, professional standards, using data for improving student learning, communicating with parents and encouraging teachers in leadership roles.
- Challenges continue in the area of time concerns such as minimizing instructional interruptions and having sufficient time to meet the needs of all students. Principals noted concerns about having time to focus on instructional leadership issues and having sufficient staff to meet student needs.
- Educators say that they face challenges related to access to appropriate instructional materials.
- More early- and mid-career educators indicate plans to leave education than indicated in the 2012 survey.



CHARTER SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS TWEAKED

Recommendations from the Charter School Advisory Board to improve the charter application process, timeline and content were approved in June. The goal of these changes is to increase clarity in the process, to provide better customer service for applicants and to strengthen the application for the review process. A complete list of modifications is at <https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=1302>. Under the process, charter applications will become available each July and will be due on the last Friday of September, beginning a roughly two-year approval and planning process. New charters will be notified of their approval by the following September to open the following school year. The two-year application-to-school opening process allows time for new charter schools to adequately plan for serving their first enrolled students.

NCDPI MOVES TO IMPLEMENT BOARD OF EDUCATION'S STRATEGIC PLAN

In April 2014, the State Board of Education approved new goals and objectives centered on its vision of every public school student graduating ready for post-secondary education and work, prepared to be a globally engaged and productive citizen. The Department of Public Instruction has taken those goals (online at <http://stateboard.ncpublicschools.gov/strategic-plan>) and used them to align the roles and key functions of the Department. Key functions include: professional development, technical assistance/capacity building, technical support, resource development, monitoring of state and federal laws, partnerships, internal operations and communication. NCDPI is creating an online operational planning tool to allow easy access to its work plans for carrying out the Board's strategic goals. This will be online by August 2014 at ncpublicschools.org.

SBE Highlights: A checklist of Board actions is posted every month immediately after the meeting's end. Access that at <http://stateboard.ncpublicschools.gov/minutes-actions/sbe-actions/2014>. The State Board of Education's next meeting will be July 9 in Raleigh. Proceedings are audio streamed through the Board's meeting site. Go to ncpublicschools.org and click on the SBE Meetings in the top right corner of the page.